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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned over reports that your Administration is seriously considering a request by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to buy additional equipment for the sixty F-15 fighters already on order from the United States.

The equipment Saudi Arabia is seeking (conformal fuel tanks, multiple ejection racks for increased ordnance, and AIM-9L air-to-air missiles) will significantly increase the combat radius, lethality, and ground attack capability of the Saudi F-15's. In addition, the KC-135 tankers and the airborne warning and control aircraft the Saudis are reportedly seeking would further enhance the combat effectiveness of the sixty F-15's.

When the Congress debated the wisdom of providing the F-15 air-superiority fighter to Saudi Arabia two years ago, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown assured the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "Saudi Arabia has not requested nor do we intend to sell any other systems or armaments that would increase the range or enhance the ground attack capability of the F-15." Providing the equipment that the Saudis are reportedly now requesting would, in our opinion, constitute a violation of the Administration's assurances to Congress.

Two years ago, your Administration argued that Saudi Arabia needed this nation's most formidable air-superiority fighter in order to defend itself against potential attack in this volatile region of the world. It was made clear that the Saudis intended to use the F-15 in its primary mission as an air-superiority fighter and in a defensive role. The addition of the equipment being requested would significantly increase the aircraft's offensive ground attack capability, and would therefore greatly increase the potential threat to Israel.

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We would therefore respectfully request that you not submit any request to Congress for the sale of this additional equipment to Saudi Arabia.

Sincerely yours,

JACK F. KEMP

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